

REMARKS

Claim 2, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-10 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Hillier et al., PCT Publication WO 01/19032 A1. Claims 1-18 are pending. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner indication that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit claim 11 has been so amended, accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 recites a bridging system for a communication system comprising a first gateway and a second gateway arranged to communicate with each other, each gateway being connectable to a different bus of the communication system, the first gateway being operative to communicate details of available devices on its respective bus to the second gateway, the second gateway being operative to generate at least one proxy element corresponding to each of said available devices, each proxy

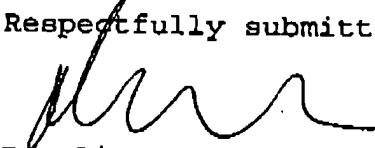
element being operative to communicate data and messages between devices on the bus of the second gateway and the device on the first gateway corresponding to the proxy element wherein a communication between devices is started when sufficient resources are available on the busses and gateway connections.

Applicants can find nothing in Hillier et al., that discloses or implies that a communication between devices is started when sufficient resources are available on the busses. Hillier et al. fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 1 for at least the above reasons.

As to the other rejected claims, they each depend from one of the base claim 1 and patentable over Hillier et al. for at least the same reasons although they each merit further consideration based on their respective merits.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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On July 7, 2004

By Edna Chase